

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 812

By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862.

WHEREAS, in 1862 the United States was engaged in a Civil War, which divided the nation and depleted its budget; and

WHEREAS, the Congress sought to energize the vital intellectual resources of the nation by making higher education accessible to the public and thereby apply that intellectual capacity to stimulating the national economy; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln supported, encouraged, and signed this legislation on July 2, 1862, because it contained ideals vital to the future of the nation and was able to be executed through the allocation of land grants; and

WHEREAS, the legislation known as the "Morrill Act" manifested itself in Tennessee within The University of Tennessee and later in 1890 within Tennessee State University when the Second Morrill Act designated historically black colleges as land-grant institutions; and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee enrolls nearly 50,000 students statewide and has more than 325,000 alumni worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The University of Tennessee delivers educational programs and research-based information to Tennesseans through 95 UT Extension county offices, making five million annual contacts, returning to Tennesseans \$6.59 for every dollar invested; and

WHEREAS, UT AgResearch ensures Tennesseans a safe, affordable, and nutritious food and fiber supply while returning \$500 million to the state economy annually; and

WHEREAS, as envisioned by the Morrill Act, The University of Tennessee not only strengthens Tennessee agriculture and industry but also continues to assist the state economy in each successive wave of innovation; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee have experienced a profound benefit from this landmark legislation; and

WHEREAS, the seeds of the Morrill Act led to the democratization of higher education and a prolific spread of higher education to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the term “people’s colleges” was adopted to reflect the new spirit of serving all citizens; and that spirit continues today through teaching, research, and extension; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge The University of Tennessee’s contributions to the state through its land-grant mission and commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Morrill Act. We respectfully acknowledge the foresight of our country’s forefathers in passing the land-grant act and memorialize them for the renewed commitment to accessible higher education and the support of learning, discovery, and engagement to improve the economic, social, and cultural lives of the people of Tennessee, this nation, and other nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.